HASSAN JEANNE M 10/24/81 135022 PRINTER: LI
80 KINGSTON 2935

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PAGE 01 KINGST 02935 261750Z
ACTION ARA-15
INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 STR-09 SIL-01 AID-07
PC-01 SY-05 OCS-06 CA-01 /123 W
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R 212120Z APR 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2410
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USINT HAVANA
C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 2935
E.O.12065: GDS 4/21/86 (LAWRENCE LOREN)) OR-AMB
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: POLITICAL FEELING IN THE WEST OF JAMAICA
1. C-ENTIRE TEXT
2. SUMMARY: WESTERN JAMAICA, AND IMPORTANT THIRD OF THE ISLAND WITH A PROUD IDENTITY QUITE DISTINCT FROM KINGSTON, IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE ELECTION WITH SOME OPTIMISM. VIRTUALLY EVERYONE NOW CONCEDES A JAMAICA LABOR PARTY LANDSLIDE. EVEN IN MONTEGO BAY THERE IS A PERVASIVE FEAR OF VIOLENCE, THOUGH MONTEGONIANS BELIEVE ANY TROUBLE WILL COME FROM KINGSTON. MURKY RUMORS OF COMMUNIST PLOTS, ARMS CHACHES, ETC, ABOUND. THE BUSINESS LEADERS (NOT SO TIED TO INDUSTRY AS KINGSTON) LOOK FORWARD WITH HOPE AND ARE ALREADY DRUMMING UP INVESTMENT FOR THE POST ELECTION PERIOD. THE WINTER TOURIST SEASON WAS GOOD,
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PAGE 02 KINGST 02935 261750Z
BUT NOT AS GOOD AS EXPECTED. OVERALL, THERE IS A CAUTIOUS MOOD OF CONFIDENCE, NOT SHARED BY THE REST OF THE ISLAND. END SUMMARY.
3. TWO EMBOFFS TRAVELED TO MONTEGO BAY LAST WEEK TO TEST THE POLITICAL WATERS. MONTEGO BAY, ITSELF ABOUT 120,000 POPULATION, IS THE POLITICAL ECONOMIC CENTER OF THE WESTERN PART OF JAMAICA, ABOUT A THIRD OF THE POPULATION ALTHOUGH IT IS SOMEWHAT UNDERREPRESENTED IN THE PARLIAMENT. WE TALKED TO BUSINESSMEN, POLITIIANS, TRADE UNION LEADERS, AND TRADED NOTES WITH THE VERY ASTUTE U.S. CONSULAR AGENT, ROBERT GARTH.
4. A SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:
NO ONE IN EITHER PARTY GIVES THE GOVERNING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE OF WINNING THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDS/MR
REVIEWED BY RB DATE 25 JUN 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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OF THE SIXTEEN SEATS IN WESTERN JAMAICA THE PNP IS GIVEN A CHANCE OF RETAINING ONLY THREE (P.J. PATTERSON, FRANCIS TULLOCH, HOWARD COCKE). OLD PNP WARHORSE CHARLES SINCLAIR ESTIMATED FOUR HE WILL NOT RUN FOR A SEAT. HE SAID, BUT THOUGH THAT CARMEN MCGREGOR IN NEGRIL MIGHT RETAIN HER SEAT. IN ANY EVENT, EVERYONE EXPECTS A JAMAICA LABOR PARTY (JLP) LANDSLIDE.

THERE IS A GENERAL FEAR OF INCREASING VIOLENCE, BUT NOT AS MARKED AS IN KINGSTON. THE MONTEGONIANS ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEY CAN CONTAIN ANY TROUBLE IN WESTRN JAMAICA. BUT THEY BELIEVE THAT KINGSTON IS READY TO EXPLODE. [redacted] TOLD US THAT HE IS CONVINCEI THAT THE PNP LEFT WING IS COLDLY PLANNING A CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE AS THEIR ONLY CHANCE OF EITHER POSTPONING AN ELECTION AND STAYING IN POWER, OR PUTTING THE COUNTRY INTO SUCH UNGOVERNABLE CHAOS THAT THE JLP WOULD PRESIDF OVER A SHAMBLES;

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THE MONTEGONIANS OF BOTH THE PNP MODERATE STRIP AND THE JLP

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ARE VERY UPSET ABOUT RECENT CHANGES IN THE POLICE COMMAND SRUCTURE IN THE WEST. THE POPULAR AND RESPECTED WESTERN POLICE HEAD, SUPERINTENDENT ALLEN LEWIS, WAS SUDDNELY PUT ON INDEFINITE LEAVE IN MARCH AND A MORE AMENABLE OFFICER HAS BEEN IN CHARGE. NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTERDUDLEY THOMPSON IS NOW SPENDING HALF HIS TIME IN THE WEST.

WHICH [redacted] FINDS PARTICULARLY OMINOUS. THERE ARE MANY RUMORS OF SECRET ARMS CACHES, PARAMILITYARY TRAINING ETC. IN REMOTE PARTS OF THE WESTERN PARISHES, BUT NO ONE COULD GIVES US ANY HARD OF EVEN CREDIBLE INFORMATION. ALL AGREED THAT GANJA (MARIJUANA) TRADE IS FLOURISHING AS NEVER BEFORE. BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT ARE AT A VIRTUAL STANDSTILL, PENDING THE ELECTION. BUT WE DETECTED A CERTAIN UNDERLYING OPTIMISM.

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[redacted]

THE WINTER TOURIST SEASCN, ENDED APRIL 16, WAS RATHER GOOD BUT LID NOT QUITE COME UP TO EXPECTIONS. EVERYONE IN THE TOURIST INDUSTRY IS FEARFUL OF PRE ELECTION VIOLENCE WHICH COULD BLOW THE WHOLE SUMMER SEASON. THEY ARE ALL BUSILY TRYING TO FIGURE OUT JUST HOW MUCH MONEY THEY MADE OFF THE GREAT INFLUX OF PACKAGE TOUR GERMANS(MANY COUPLES OF WHOM ORDER ONLY ONE DINNER WHEN THEY GO OUT TO DINNER AND SHARE). TOURISM IS AT ONCE FEARFUL AND HOPEFUL, BUT REMAINS FRAGILE. INCIDENTIALLY, THE PATCHED UP SYSTEM TO SUPPLY THE HOTELS WITH NEEDED IMPORTS, DESPITE FOREIGN EXCHANGE WOES, HA WORKED EXTRAORDINARILY WELL THERE ARE FEW COMPLAINTS. TOURISM DIRECTOR DESOMOND HENRY IS NOT POPULAR WITH THE HOTELIERS, BUT THEY ARE GIVING HIM GRUDING RESPECT FOR GETTING THINGS DONE IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION.

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IN THE TRADE UNION FIELD. [redacted] b(1) ED
OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE UNION HEADQUARTERS OF BOTH UNIONS IN FARAWAY KINGSTON ARE TOO BUSY WITH OTHER PROBLEMS TO NOTICE
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PAGE 04 KINGST 02935 261750Z
WHAT IS HAPPENING. [redacted] b(1) ED
ARE SO FAR SUCCESSFULLY RESISTING INROADS OF THE COMMUNIST UNIONS WHICH ARE EXPANDING ELSEWHERE IN THE ISLAND.
DRAFTED BY ROBERT DUBOSE.
LAWRENCE
NOTE BY OCT: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.
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E.O. 12356, SEC. 3.4
NLRR M08-78/1 #30
BY LM NARA DATE 1/29/09